



WORKING HOURS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

1589-G2PD-FBQG

1

Key words

Read the sentences below and match the underlined words and phrases with their definitions.

1. The newspaper reported that the company is going to move its head office to another country.
 2. The staff were very happy, so the company had a low turnover.
 3. Jane is not at work this month. She's on leave.
 4. A company laptop is an important perk of this job.
 5. We need to increase productivity. The workers are getting very lazy.
- a. a benefit, such as money or a car, that you're given to use for work
 - b. a period of time when you don't go to work
 - c. describe on television, radio, or in a newspaper
 - d. how fast a company makes things
 - e. the rate at which employees leave a company and are replaced by new people



**2****Find the information**

You're going to read an article about Sweden's flexible working hours. Guess the answers to the questions below and then read the text to check them.

1. When was the six-hour work day first implemented in Sweden?
 - a. 2 years ago
 - b. 5 years ago
 - c. over 10 years ago
2. How many vacation days do Swedes get every year?
 - a. 15
 - b. 25
 - c. 45
3. How many days of leave do Swedes get after having a baby or adopting a child?
 - a. 120
 - b. 240
 - c. 480
4. How many Swedes work more than 50 hours a week?
 - a. 1 percent
 - b. 6 percent
 - c. 11 percent
5. How many Americans work more than 50 hours a week?
 - a. 1 percent
 - b. 6 percent
 - c. 11 percent





The truth about Sweden's six-hour work day

Only 1% of Swedes work more than 50 hours a week

1. In 2015, newspapers reported that Sweden was moving to a six-hour work day.
2. Employers at a Toyota center in Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city, said that their staff was happier, the company had a lower turnover and profits were higher after it implemented the shorter working hours over 10 years ago.
3. Good results caused a number of other Swedish companies to try cutting hours in a working day, and then suddenly, everybody was talking about it on the internet.
4. The biggest Swedish job site, Indeed.com, revealed that Sweden's six hour day might not be as revolutionary as it sounds. According to the website, there are zero searches for "six-hour workday" or "short work week" in Sweden, and no jobs are actively promoting the short six-hour day in their job ads.
5. Tara Sinclair, chief economist for Indeed, said the results don't mean that Sweden's six-hour workday is a myth. "It's more likely a sign that Swedes are already used to a healthy work-life balance. So the topic isn't that shocking to them," Sinclair said.
6. Swedes get 25 vacation days a year and parents can have 480 days of leave after they have a baby or adopt.
7. Only 1% of Swedes work more than 50 hours a week, compared to the U.S. average of 11%. That means 144 hours less work a year for the average Swede than the average American.
8. Meanwhile, the number of job ads with "flexible working arrangements" has stayed the same over the past two years, while the number of searches for these terms is actually lower. In the U.S., the number of searches for flexible working goes up every year. "Flexibility is no longer a new perk but an expected part of any job," Sinclair said.
9. Longer working hours have been linked with heart disease and stroke, according to a medical study.
10. The companies that implemented six hour days last year have not released any results that show the effect on productivity, but psychologists warned that shorter working days could put extra pressure on workers to do more work in less time.
11. "The risk is that people may work more intensively and try to do more work in a shorter period of time. This would increase pressure, not reduce it," said Gail Kinman, a professor of occupational psychology.

Adapted from The Independent, by Hazel Sheffield, January 7th, 2016

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Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. What were the benefits of a shorter work day at Toyota?
2. Why is the six-hour work day not a big deal in Sweden?
3. What is the difference between Sweden and the United States when people look for flexible work opportunities on the internet?
4. What are the drawbacks of a longer work day?
5. What are the drawbacks of a shorter work day?